

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 06106 110907Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 MMO-01 PER-01 A-01

SS-15 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05

/057 W

-----068598 111433Z /64

R 110810Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8680

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 6106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PEACE CORPS, ID

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RETURN OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO INDONESIA

1. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ASHARI DANUDIRDJO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR MAY 10 THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO THE POSSIBLE INITIATION OF A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN INDONESIA. SUHARTO HAD SAID THAT THE PEACE CORPS NAME WAS STILL "CONTROVERSIAL" IN INDONESIA. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE WOULD BE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IF THE PEACE CORPS RETURNED TO INDONESIA AS A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION. SUHARTO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE A SMALL NUMBER OF TECHNICAL PERSONEL TO WORK IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. SOME OF THESE COULD BE FROM THE PEACE CORPS. THEY MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN FIELDS SUCH AS DRY RICE CULTIVATION. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD ASHARI THAT THE PEACE CORPS WAS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF ITS NAME. HE FELT SURE THAT IF VOLUNTEERS RETURNED TO INDONESIA THEY WOULD WANT TO RETURN CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT WORK LOCALLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF BUTSI OR SOME OTHER INDONESIAN ORGANIZATION. ASHARI REITERATED THAT SUHARTO WAS NOT REPEAT NOT IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM PER SE OR USING THE PEACE CORPS LABEL.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM WITH MINISTER OF STATE WIDJOJO NITISASTRO DURING A
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CALL ON MAY 11. WIDJOJO SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, HE FELT THAT WHAT INDONESIA NEEDED WAS A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF EXPERTS WITH DETAILED KNOWLEDGE AND THAT THESE COULD BEST BE MADE AVAILABLE AS AT PRESENT BY HAVING QUALIFIED PEOPLE ON THE USAID STAFF, OR IN A FEW CASES USING PERSONNEL FROM EXISTING PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS. HE GAVE NO

SUPPORT TO THE CONCEPT OF THE PEACE CORPS IN INDONESIA.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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